

Appn. Ser. No. 09/955,830
Atty Docket No.: 00-4058

REMARKS

Applicant submits this Response in response to the Office Action mailed April 20, 2005.
Applicant has amended claim 6. Claims 1-14 remain pending. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated the allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-14, but has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by S. Kent et al., RFC 2406, IP Encapsulating Security Payload (ESP), The Internet Society, November 1998 (hereinafter "Kent"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 6 based on the following.¹

Claim 6 recites a method that includes:

- determining characteristics of a security association, the characteristics including a window size, the determining including defining a multiple level bitmap representing sequence numbers of packets;
- setting a bottom value and a top value to define a window based on said window size, said setting including setting at least one bit of the multiple level bitmap;
- receiving a sequence number for a packet;
- comparing said sequence number to said window, said comparison using the multiple level bitmap;
- setting a new top value equal to said sequence number if said sequence number is greater than the said top value; and
- setting a new bottom value based on said new top value and said window size.

Kent does not teach or suggest the method recited by claim 6. For example, Kent does not describe "determining characteristics of a security association, the characteristics including a

¹ As Applicant's remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicant's silence as to certain assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or any requirements applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references) is not a concession by Applicant that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicant reserves the right to analyze and dispute such in the future.

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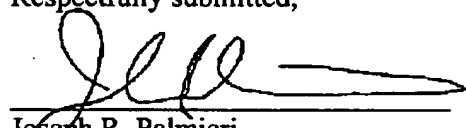
window size, the determining including defining a multiple level bitmap representing sequence numbers of packets," or "comparing said sequence number to said window, said comparison using the multiple level bitmap," as recited in claim 6. The Examiner has indicated in the Office Action that "Kent fails to teach bit map memory used to store multiple level bit maps representing sequence numbers of packets." (Office Action, p. 4.) Applicant therefore believes claim 6 to be patentable over Kent for at least the reasons articulated above, and respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues which need to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative by phone at the number indicated below to discuss such issues. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made, the fee for which should be charged to deposit account number 07-2347. With respect to this application, please charge any other necessary fees and credit any overpayment to that account.

Respectfully submitted,

July 11, 2005



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